Bids for Crude Exploration from Private Contractor

1773. SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government had invited bids for crude explorations from private contractors to participate in speculative surveys and explorations; and

(b) if so, what were the terms of bid, which responded to the call and to whom contracts had been awarded indentifying the areas of explorations allocated to them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH SHARMA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The bids are negotiable, after evaluation and the terms will be finalised only after negotiations.

Rise in import of Petroleum Products

1774. DR. NAUNIHAL SINGH:
SHRI SANGH PRIYA GAUTAM:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the volum of petroleum products' imports has been rising sharply. If so, the details for the last three years;

(b) what are the implications for this surge with details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that the imports of petroleum products are much more costlier than crude; and

(d) if so, what efforts have the Government made during the last three years for creation of fresh refining capacity to overcome this problem with the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH SHARMA): (a) The import of Petroleum Products during the last three years was as under:

Quantity: MMT
Value: Rs./crores

Year	Quantity	Value
1990-91	8.7	4660
1991-92*	9.4	5218
1992-93*	11.3	6360

*Provisional

(b) While an increase in the import of petroleum products would entail increased outflow of foreign exchange, they will meet the nergy requirements of the growing economy.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Efforts are being Made to increase the refining capacity by taking up expansion of existing refineries and by allowing the setting up of new grass root refineries in the Public Sector, Joint Venture and Private Sector.

Expansion proposals of existing refineries are expected to provide an addidtional 7.8 MMTPA of capacity. Three new refineries of 6 MMTPA capacity each are planned in the joint sector with Indian Oil Corporation, Bharat Petroleum Corporation and Hindustan Petroleum Corporation as the public sector partners for implementation during 8/9 Plan in Eastern India, Central India and Western India.

In addition, Letters of Intent to private sector for setting up refineries have been issued as follows:

1. M/s. Reliance Petroleum Ltd. ..... 9 MMPTA
2. M/s. Ashok Leyland .... 6 MMPTA
3. M/s. Essar Investments Ltd. ..... 9 MMPTA
4. M/s. International Petroleum S.A. (BVI) ..... 5 MMPTA
   Expandable to 10 MMTPA
5. M/s. T. R. Datla (M/s. Black Gold Refineries) ..... 2.5 MMPTA

Besides these, three new grass root